

SAN MARCOS FREE PRESS.

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SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

TEXAS TOPICS.

—The *Dublin Gazette* says the second crop of potatoes is a good one in that vicinity.

—It is rumored that the general offices of the Santa Fe Railroad will be moved from Galveston to Dallas.

—The pecan crop is a heavy one in Texas. Some counties will receive from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for pecans alone.

—Hundreds of sacks of oysters and many hogsheds of fish are daily brought to Galveston from Matagorda Bay.

—Capt. Prate, a conductor on the M., K. and T. Railroad, reports half the men in the Denison repair shops on the sick list.

—The *Wool-Grower* advises the sheep men of Texas to prepare for sending three of their best men to Washington next winter to look after their interests.

—Jim Currie, the murderer of the actor Porter in Marshall and recently marshal of San Marcial, New Mexico, has been ordered out of town by the railroad men.

—Things are looking up in Tom Green county. The *San Angela Times* says adobe buildings are gradually disappearing and good wooden structures being erected in their place.

—The *Colorado City Commercial Clipper* says Big Springs has a population of some 600, and that over forty new buildings for residences have been erected within two months.

—It is understood that the southern Texas roads request St. Louis shippers to consign goods via the Cairo Short-line, by which through bills will be issued, and as good time made as by the Gould system. There is a strong opinion among railroad men that this is the precursor of a war in rates from New Orleans west. The Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio will be completed in a few days to Sierra Blanca, where it will connect with the southern Pacific. For some time the Missouri Pacific system has sent all New Orleans business west via Shreveport and the Texas and Pacific. It is alleged, also, that the Gould roads have failed to carry out the wishes of shippers in giving direction to freight. The new line from New Orleans to the western terminus of the Southern Pacific is owned by Huntington, who also controls the Southern Pacific, and railroad men are disposed to think that the Huntington party considers itself strong enough to make a fight for the through business of the south against the Missouri Pacific. It has been considered that the Huntington and Gould interests were in an alliance. This seems to be the view of Messrs. Hoxie and Hayes. St. Louis. Mr. Hoxie, general manager of the Texas Pacific, said that the order of the southern Texas roads amounted to nothing, and would probably be withdrawn within a week. No war of rates was contemplated. Captain Hayes, vice president of the Missouri Pacific, said that the order was probably issued without consultation, and Mr. Gibbs who issued it, would soon find out that he had no use for such an order. The Missouri Pacific system and the Huntington roads were on the friendliest terms, and the circular of Mr. Gibbs meant nothing as indicating the future policy of the roads he represented.

Cotton-Seed.

The value of cotton-seed is just beginning to be found out. The crop in this country amounts to about 3,000,000 tons. The southern oil-mills consumed last year about 180,000 tons in the manufacture of oil; and less than half the remainder was used for manure, seed, and feeding stock, the rest being wasted. A ton of seed yields thirty-five to forty gallons of oil and 600 to 700 pounds of oil cake. Recent improvements have so refined this oil that it is now largely used in adulterating "olive oils." It is also used for a lubricant, and for cooking instead of lard. Cotton-seed cake or meal is rich in nutritive matter, and combined with coarse forage makes a valuable product for fattening live stock. It is also a fine fertilizer. The agricultural College of Mississippi is experimenting with cotton-seed on an extensive scale. Prof. Gulley's late address on the result of these experiments is reported as follows: "Estimating the seed at 10 cents per bushel—the price paid for 10,000 bushels delivered at the college barn—and oat

straw and coarse hay at \$10 per ton, the average cost of food consumed per head per day by the college cows last winter was seven and three-tenths cents, the daily milk average being one and one-half gallons. The expense of feed for dry cows and yearling calves was four and one-half cents per day. One steer fed for beef, weighing 700 pounds when shut up, gained two hundred pounds in fifty-six days, an average of four and one-half pounds per day, consuming an average of fourteen and four-tenths pounds of seed and eleven pounds of straw and hay per day; average cost of food per day, not quite ten cents; cost for whole period, \$5.42. Another steer gained 240 pounds in forty-nine days; consumed \$3.70 worth of seed and hay. The experiments show that boiled cotton-seed with any kind of straw or hay will cause cattle to fatten rapidly at all ages and in any condition. The seed also makes very rich milk, the oil of the seed seemingly appearing in the form of cream. The quality of the butter, however, when the cows are fed largely on seed, is poor.

The Wheel-Horse.

There is a wheel-horse in our family; some one who takes the load on all occasions. It may be the older daughter, possibly the father, but generally it is the mother. Extra company, sickness, etc., give her a heavy increase of the burden she is always carrying.

Even summer vacations bring less rest and recreation to her than to others of the family. The city house must be put in order, to leave; the clothing for herself and the children which a country sojourn demands, seems never to be finished; and the excursions and picnics which delight the hearts of the young people are not wholly a delight to the "provider."

Woman's work is never done. She would never have it done. Ministering to father and mother, cherishing her husband, nourishing and training her children—no true woman wants to see her work done. But because it is never done she needs resting times.

Every night the heavy truck is turned up; the wheel-horse is put up in the stable, and labor and care are dismissed till the morrow. The thills of the household van cannot be turned up at night, and the tired house-mother cannot go into a quiet stall for repose. She goes to sleep to-night feeling the pressure of to-morrow. She must have "an eye" over all until every one is in bed, and must keep an eye ready to open at any moment to answer the need of the children, and open both eyes bright and early to see the machine well started for the new day.

There is never any time that seems convenient for the mother of little children to leave home, even for a day; but with a little kindly help from her husband, and a little resolution to herself, she may go and be so much better for it that the benefit will overflow from her into the whole household. She will bring home some new idea and will work with enthusiasm that comes from a fresh start.

One word for the older sister who makes the salad for lunch and the desert for dinner, who takes the position of the wheel-horse quite cheerfully while her young sisters make themselves beautiful and entertaining, and one after another find "one true heart" apiece to love them, and leave the maiden to grow into an old maid. However willing her sacrifice, it was one; and nothing but the devoted love and gratitude of the households whose fires she has helped to kindle will reward her for what she has given.

—*Christian Union.*

Our Growing Postal Service.

The increase in number of post-offices in the United States last year was 1,719, so that at the end of the fiscal year there were 46,231 offices, or about one for every 1,200 inhabitants. The free delivery system now in operation in 112 cities has rapidly expanded. Although the cost of this service was \$123,351.50 more than the preceding year, the receipts increased to \$2,625,000, leaving a surplus of \$1,737,26. The local matter of the free delivery offices paid a profit of \$1,193,316.45 over the total cost of service, the greater part of the profit being earned by the New York post-office. The increase in the number of post-offices and in the local matter of city offices is especially noteworthy. The opening of new offices involves a temporary loss, but the growth of the business of the city offices is likely to offset this, and there is no reason why the postal service should not remain self-sustaining, although vast expenditures for its improvement may be made.

YESTERDAY WE SAW A MAN with a black eye, a skun nose and arm in a sling. He had a revolver and wanted to know who invented hammocks.—*Boston Post.*

IS HELL BELOW US?

Heat of the Earth's Crust in Various Countries.

The admirable report of the British Association committee on underground temperature, now published, gives perhaps the most reliable determinations of the distribution of the earth's internal heat. The observations summarized in this report we collected from thirty-five localities, many of which were widely separated, including such remote points as the St. Gothard Tunnel, Yakutsk, St. Petersburg, Pont-y-Pridd Colliery in South Wales, and Maregonia in India. At Liverpool the rate of increase of heat with descent from the surface was the least rapid recorded—being one degree Fahrenheit for every one hundred and thirty feet—while at Paris the rate of increase downward was twice as great, averaging one degree for 56 feet, and at Yakutsk one degree for 52 feet. Deducting a mean rate for the increase of temperature at all places where the subterranean observations are made, Prof. Everett, by whom the report was drawn up, found the increase was 1-64 of a degree per foot, or one degree in every sixty-four feet. It thus appears that the usual temperature of boiling water constantly exists in all parts of the globe at a depth less than two miles below its surface. The earlier investigations of this phenomenon led to the conclusion that the rate of temperature increase downward was one degree for every fifty or sixty feet. But this rate is now seen to be too rapid. The recent investigation, conducted on so comprehensive a scale by the British association, is of special interest to physicists as affording better data for determining the rigidity of the earth's crust and for studying seismic phenomena. According to the old estimate for the increase of underground heat, at the depth of thirty miles the heat would be sufficient to melt the most refractory substances, and below that level the earth would be in a fluid state. The new estimate, however, rather confirms the view maintained by some eminent scientists, that the earth's solid crust, enclosing the supposed molten sea within, has a thickness varying 50 to 100 miles. As this crust is constantly, though very slowly cooling by radiation of its heat, there is therefore some reason to hope that as the planet grows older earthquake disturbances may be robbed of some of their former terrors.

Among the Natives of Alaska.

A correspondent of the *San Francisco Bulletin*, describing his experience in Alaska, says:

We experienced no trouble from the natives, except in the early part of the winter they would come and stand about our doors and windows and get in our way generally, so that they became a nuisance. When the frost gathered on our windows they kept peepholes open by licking off the frost with their tongues. This we finally got rid of by making a strong decoction of cayenne pepper, and painting the outside of the glass, so that licking was not at all comfortable. A few of the respectable ones were occasionally let into the house. If any of these did not behave themselves we treated them with very little ceremony, so that they soon became afraid of us and were very civil. At first some of them had the habit of opening the door and walking into the house as if they were the owners, and after a short time we got tired of this and kicked a few of them out, and by that means they have improved in their manners considerably. There is very little fight in them, and they never stick together or stand up for each other. If you cuff one, the rest stand around and look on and laugh and say it is "Nakoomk" (good) and the fellow getting chastised is "Aseruck" (bad). They are not at all handsome, but then they are quite well for savages. The women when young are much better looking than the men, but all are very dirty and never dream of washing any part of their bodies. The men wear a large pair of bone buttons like shirt studs in their under lips, and it gives anything but a pleasant appearance. The women tattoo their chins, which they consider a great mark of beauty, but I cannot say that I agree with them on that point.

We have built a small block house in which the Gatling gun is mounted so as to command all the approaches of our house, so that if we have to fight we can do so with every advantage. During the winter a Neowuk man named Oonaleena came down it is said, with the intention of cleaning out the whole kabloonas, (whites) but as he came accompanied by his wife, his intentions were not of a very desperate character. At all events he came and had a "big talk," loitered about for a couple of days and finally took his departure for home, and sent us down a deer as a present. That

was the nearest approach to trouble we have had.

The Crops This Fall.

The rye crop will probably reach 20,000,000 bushels.

Of buckwheat, Pennsylvania produces nearly one-half the entire crop. The total yield will be over 11,000,000 bushels.

The potato crop covers an area approaching 2,000,000 acres, with a yield of about eighty bushels per acre. A short crop is foreshadowed in New York State.

Returns to the Department of Agriculture from all the 1,700 counties of the United States indicates a wheat product slightly exceeding 500,000,000 bushels or an average yield per acre of about 13.5 bushels.

In cotton, an unusual size and vigor of plant, with capacity for a large production, is reported. The general average of condition is higher than in any October for ten years, with the exception of 1875 and 1878.

More than one-half of all the barley produced in the United States is raised in New York, California and Wisconsin. The average yield is 23.5 bushels per acre, and the total product will reach 45,000,000 bushels.

Oats are an immense crop. The average yield is higher than that of last year. Kansas ranks among the highest, as it does in wheat. The total product in oats of all the States will probably be 480,000,000 bushels.

Kansas holds its reputation for large returns to the toiler, with the extraordinary average yield of 19.5. The country north of the Ohio River, in the great wheat belt, averages nearly 16 bushels. Kentucky and Missouri promise about 14 bushels and California 13 bushels.

The six principal winter wheat States will aggregate about 244,000,000 bushels. There will be a reduction in the average of the spring wheat area of the Northwest, but the yield may reach 113,000,000 bushels. The Pacific coast will probably yield 45,000,000 bushels and the Southern States a little more than 50,000,000 bushels.

The average yield of wheat the country ever had never fallen quite to 10 bushels, and it has never quite reached 14 in years of greatest abundance. This season it is unusually high in New York—18.7 bushels. In the New England States, except Vermont, it runs as low as 14 bushels. In nearly all the Southern States the average is low, ranging from 7 to 10 bushels. Texas and Arkansas are exceptions.

The yield of corn can not be accurately estimated. Much of it is still standing in shock in the field. It is believed, however, that there will be at least 1,680,000,000 bushels, or an average yield of 25 bushels to the acre, against 28 in 1879, and 18 in 1881. Of this total the States north of Tennessee and west of Virginia and Pennsylvania produced 1,250,000,000; the Southern States, 340,000,000; the Middle States, 82,000,000 and New England over 7,000,000. The total product will be more than 490,000,000 greater than last year.

Flowers in Mexico.

Mexico is the greatest flower-market in the world. All the year round, the gardens bring forth brilliant blossoms—the fragile, beautiful children of this tropic zone. All historians who write of the Mexicans as Mexicans, speak of their love of flowers as one of their principal characteristics. Nor is this trait diminished in the present generation. From the days before the cruel conquest, all through that merciless time, when the Mexicans bore the heavy yoke under their violent masters, the Spaniards, they remained faithful to their love of flowers; the passion is innate.

During even the coldest days that are known in this mild climate, one may go to market and find the simple Indians seated on the sidewalks with their baskets of flowers. I have seen them sitting thus closely together for a whole block, offering at almost ridiculously low prices great bundles of roses, heliotropes, violets, geraniums, heartsease, pinks, and, in short, almost numberless varieties. For twenty-five cents, one may nearly always buy a large elegantly-arranged bouquet, composed of the most exquisite flowers, the price of which, in New York, would vary, according to the season, from \$3 to \$5 or \$6. In full flower season one may often buy, for six and a quarter cents, as many flowers as can be disposed of in a parlor of ordinary size. Many of the wild flowers are of exquisite beauty, rivaling the choicest garden plants; in fact, many of them are among our finest greenhouse plants.—*Prairie Farmer.*

The pages of our lives that to the world seem darkest, in God's eyes may be luminous as stars.

After Many Years.

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

St. Louis, Oct. 24.—A remarkable meeting took place in the rotunda of the Laclede hotel to-day. Capt. Mose Hilliard, of Texas had just registered, when the clerk said to him: "That old gentleman," pointing to a party standing near, "wants to see you." Capt. Mose turned and said: "Do you wish to see me?" "No sir; I don't know you." "This is your brother interrupted the clerk as he introduced Capt. Mose Hilliard, one of the most extensive stock-raisers of Central Texas, to his own brother, Captain Fred. Hilliard, of San Louis-Obispo, Cal., whom he had not seen in thirty-eight years. Capt. Mose Hilliard was at one time part proprietor of the Laclede hotel in this city, but is now running 78,000 acres of stock-raising land in Texas, Captain Fred. Hilliard is a retired sea captain, living with his family at San Louis-Obispo, Cal. In 1844 the brothers started out from their Connecticut homes to make their fortunes, Captain Mose coming West to Missouri, while his brother boarded a whaling vessel and made a three years voyage around the Cape, locating on the west coast of Chili. He then went up by way of the Sandwich islands to San Francisco, and took command of the first fleet of coast steamers plying along the Pacific slope. He married a Spanish lady, and twenty-five years ago had accumulated a goodly store of this world's goods and retired to his country home, where he had since lived. The last news he heard from his brother Mose was from St. Louis, and he accordingly started East a few weeks ago to see his brother and the friends of his boyhood. From St. Louis he telegraphed Fred. Hilliard, in Texas, but that gentleman had already started out for this city on business connected with his stock farm, so that he had no advice of his brother's visit here until the meeting as above described.

"Patent Jurymen."

Just look, will you, for a moment at that crowd of old, "used to be's?" hanging around the court-house doors upon every side like a lot of hungry buzzards swarming around the carcass of a dead street-car mule. There they stand—some deaf; some nearly blind, bent up with old age and warped out of shape by the pains of rheumatism—men with gray hair, men with none at all, men in their dotage; children, as it were, with one foot standing in the grave, the other in the poor-house—all anxiously awaiting the chance to get the "job" of serving upon the jury. Just take a look at the forms and faces of the old "professionals," and it won't take you two minutes to come to a conclusion, why it is that law and justice are used and abused in our courts? No wonder the cold-blooded, heartless murderer and assassin is turned loose to go "free as a bird." No wonder crime holds high carnival all over the state and laughs in her sleeve, while justice hangs her head in shame and weeps as if her heart would break. Just step into the court-room, where a murderer is on trial. The judge is all right, the law seems to be all right; but listen to the lawyer defending the criminal; hear his witness swear. Then turn around and look! Great Cesar! Just look at that jury selected for the purpose of trying the criminal for his life and you'll leave the presence and dignity of law and justice, feeling as if it would be more than a farce for you to go on, kill somebody in cold blood, get \$50 for the job, pay \$25 to get out of it, buy a mule for \$15, a shotgun for \$10, start out fresh by killing a man; get a "patent jury" to try the case; prove you're crazy; cross the river; stay there and enjoy yourself. No wonder Kentucky is called the "dark and bloody ground." Trying criminals with "patent jurymen" is, in the main, the cause of it.—*Courier Journal.*

A SYSTEM of pipes and tanks is being placed at the entrance to Aberdeen harbor to serve as a permanent means for pouring oil on the water to calm it in stormy weather and thus facilitate the passage of vessels. It is confidently believed that the scheme will prove entirely successful, the only difficulty that has thus far presented itself being that the pipes will obstruct dredging operations. Common fish oil, procurable at low prices, is the material which will be used to soothe the troubled ocean.

It will cost three cents for one of the new postal money-orders for a sum less than five dollars, and the service is so extended as to raise the limit of orders from fifty dollars to one hundred. Persons will not be required to fill out a blank, but will receive an order payable to the bearer at any desired money office.

BEN FRANKLIN said that soft words butter no parsnips, but they have helped elect many a man to office for all that.